



City of Hickory
Post Office Box 398
Hickory, NC 28603-0398
Telephone 828/261-2222
Fax 828/323-7550

Mandy Pitts • Public Information Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kevin Greer, PE
Assistant Public Services Director
(828) 323-7427

Hickory and other communities along the Catawba River modify water restrictions and allow watering of lawns once a week and washing cars twice a month

HICKORY - Hickory and other communities along the Catawba River modified water restrictions to allow citizens and businesses to water lawns once a week and wash cars twice a month.

On Tuesday, April 1, the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (C-W DMAG) advised its members that the Catawba-Wateree Basin's drought measures have improved enough to permit modifications to water use restrictions.

"The C-W DMAG has closely monitored these measures for the last seven months and measures do show a progressive trend of improvement at this time," said City of Hickory Assistant Public Services Director Kevin Greer. "The previous recommendation from C-W DMAG, issued last September, had been for a complete ban on landscape irrigation due to rapid decline of all drought measures monitored by the group. The C-W DMAG will continue to closely monitor all drought measures as we head into the spring and summer months of the year and will make recommendations for adjustments to water use restrictions as necessary."

The Cities of Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton, Conover and Claremont, and the Towns of Granite Falls, Valdese, Maiden and Long View, as well as customer water systems including Water Corporations have modified the existing water use restrictions to include water use restrictions specific to Lawn Irrigation and Residential Vehicle Washing. These restrictions are in effect for any customer who receives a utility bill from these systems or systems they provide water to and will be in effect while the Catawba River Basin remains in Stage 3 LIP drought conditions or until drought measures change and public water suppliers feel it prudent to modify the restrictions.

The restrictions as of April 3, 2008 are as follows:

Lawn Irrigation

1. Customers will be allowed to irrigate or water lawns one day per week between the hours of 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. OR 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. based on the following schedule:
 - Customers with addresses in NE and SW Hickory and customers in the Sherrill's Ford Community and Town of Catawba will be allowed to irrigate lawns on Fridays.

- Customers with addresses in NW Hickory and the City of Conover, City of Claremont, and Town of Maiden will be allowed to irrigate lawns on Saturdays.
 - Customers with addresses in SE Hickory, Alexander County and Icard Township Water Corporation service area will be allowed to irrigate lawns on Sundays.
 - Customers in the Town of Valdese and the City of Morganton with odd-numbered addresses will be allowed to irrigate lawns on Saturdays.
 - Customers in the Town of Valdese and the City of Morganton with even-numbered addresses will be allowed to irrigate lawns on Sundays.
 - Customers in the City of Lenoir, Town of Granite Falls and Town of Long View will be allowed to irrigate lawns on Saturdays.
2. Athletic Fields will be allowed to irrigate one day per week as well. A schedule must be approved with the water provider.
 3. All lawn irrigation should be performed in a responsible manner and in no event should irrigation exceed one inch per week including any rain received.

Residential Car Washing

1. Vehicle Washing is allowed on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month between the hours of 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. with use of a manned hose with a spring-loaded nozzle and bucket.
2. Old or failed spring loaded nozzles should be replaced to ensure that the minimum amount of water necessary is used.

Swimming Pools – Commercial and Residential:

1. New pool construction may be completed and filled one time for testing and warranty.
2. Leaks in existing pools must be patched or repaired to the extent possible. All leaks must be fixed.
3. If liner requires replacement due to leakage, the Owner or Contractor must notify the responsible Water Provider prior to work being done. The liner may be replaced upon approval of the Water Provider, may be filled one time for setting the liner and testing.
4. All new pools, liner replacements or major maintenance will require the pool to be equipped with a solar blanket or manufacturer recommended cover.
5. Pool cover must be in place over pool while pool is not in use.
6. Owners may maintain water level so to avoid structural or mechanical damage to pool between the hours of 7 a.m. to 11a.m. or 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily. No more water than absolutely necessary shall be added.
7. Owners must provide an inspection report, from homeowner or contractor, for the pool detailing any leaks evident and repaired or that no leaks exist.

Ornamental Fountains:

1. Ornamental water fountains dependent upon Municipal Water must be turned off.
2. Ornamental water features with existing aquatic habitat may be operated at minimum level to support health of inhabitants.
3. No new or replacement inhabitants may be added to features.
4. Ornamental water features, which do not support aquatic life, must be turned off.



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Landscape Watering (Trees, Flowers, Shrubs and Vegetable Gardens):

1. Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Vegetable Gardens may be watered between the hours of 7am to 11am or 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Minimum amount of water necessary shall be used.
2. Watering must be performed with a manned hose equipped with a spring-loaded nozzle, drip line or soaker hose.

“The water providers are pleased to be able to modify water use restrictions as stated above,” added Greer. “This modification is due to the fact that the C-W DMAG has determined that all drought measures used to manage the basin have improved and show trends of continual improvement.”

The C-W DMAG will continue to closely evaluate the situation and will make recommendations for modifications as necessary. Customers are reminded to pursue projects cautiously given the persistent drought conditions which the basin is experiencing and to remain aware of current water use restrictions as published from their local water provider.

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